

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, obesity is a complex condition, influenced by behavioral, environmental and biological factors, that increases the risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, some forms of cancer, and other chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, more than sixty percent of the adults in the Palmetto State are overweight, with approximately twenty-five percent considered obese, and approximately one quarter of our low-income children aged 2 - 5 and high school students are overweight or at risk of overweight; and

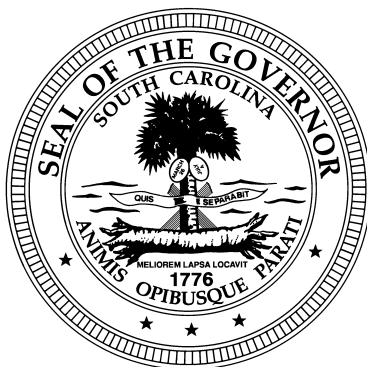
WHEREAS, obesity places a large economic burden on our state, having expenses over one billion dollars in 2003, nearly half of which were paid by taxpayers through Medicare and Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, wide-scale, population-based efforts to enhance proper nutrition, physical activity, and other healthy behaviors positively impact obesity, improving the quality of life of the residents of the Palmetto State.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim June 2005 as

OBESITY AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to join in obesity prevention efforts where they live, work, and play and to make healthier decisions in their day-to-day lives.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Mark Sanford".

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA